

Driftless Area Fishing

Patty Anderson

Club member Patty Anderson will offer a slide presentation on fishing the Driftless Area of the mid-West for trout. Patty and her husband Bruce are avid fly enthusiasts. I have fished around the world with them from Wisconsin to the Caymans, Belize, the Bahamas, Cuba and Alaska. I think you will enjoy Patty's informative and interesting talk!

The *Driftless Area* is a region in Minnesota, Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, and northeastern Iowa of the American Midwest that was never glaciated. The term "driftless" indicates a lack of glacial drift, the deposits of silt, gravel, and rock that retreating glaciers leave behind. The Driftless Area geography is characterized by its steep, rugged landscape, and by the largest concentration of cold water streams in the world. What really made this driftless area such a mystery was that the entire area of 15,000 square miles was surrounded by drift. This meant that glaciers went entirely around the driftless area but didn't cover it.

Those small cold-water streams provide great habitat for trout and the states have worked with farmers to make many of the streams open to fishing. Patty will tell you about her and Bruce's experience fishing the area in Wisconsin. //Walt



**Next meeting 7 May
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM**

We meet at the Northdale Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Come early to practice casting at 05:30 pm. We will provide pizza and drinks, so join us for an enjoyable evening. Families and newcomers are welcome to walk in and check out the club. We have also started collecting annual dues for 2024.

Directions to Our Meetings (6:00pm): Directions to Our Meetings (6:30 pm) Northdale Rec Center: Take Dale Mabry north past Ehrlich Road and then left on Northdale Blvd. Then left on Spring Pine Drive and straight to the Rec Center on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our annual banquet with the Suncoast Club was a great success again this year. Many thanks to all members who attended and donated items. Thanks to the Board Members who did a lot of the planning and setup for the event. Thanks to the Suncoast for hosting the event again this year. We will try to plan the event on the Tampa side of the Bay next year. Special thanks to Robert and Ginny for collecting and keeping track of the funds along with Karen from the Suncoast. Jesse Males gave an interesting presentation with his super films on fishing for tarpon, redfish and trout. I think everyone had a good time and we raised money to support both clubs. Well done to all who participated!

Thanks for supporting our club and let us know if we can do a better job. Our goal is to grow our sport with hands-on fly fishing lessons and conservation.

We are seeking speakers for the summer, so let me know if you have any good ideas.

Sight fishing opportunities are waning, but many game fish are becoming more active. Try the Legion Flat in South Tampa on a good incoming tide for chances at snook and reds near the mangroves and oyster bars.

//Walt Durkin



Fly Fishing Quotes

“You say I`m a compulsive fishing freak like it`s a bad thing.” – Unknown

“Fishing is much more than fish. It is the great occasion when we may return to the fine simplicity of our forefathers.” - Herbert Hoover

“I am firmly convinced that the ideal combination leading to a happy life is to have the time to both fish and read.” - Brian Murphy

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Banquet Pictures



TBFFC NEWS & NOTES

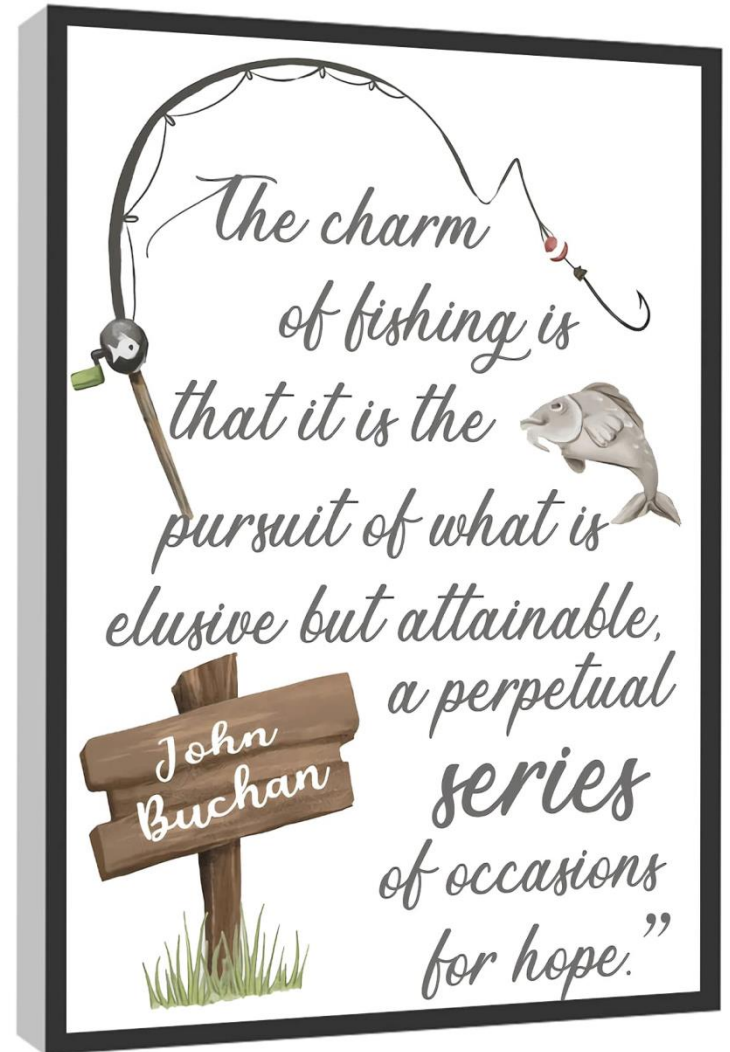
New Club Shirts are available in white, blue and tan. They cost us \$27 and will offer them at \$30. We are also looking for club hats to offer.

Please support our local fly shops, especially Tampa Fishing Outfitters off Dale Mabry past the stadium and Minnows and Monsters in S. Tampa. Mention our club for a 10% discount. Special thanks to **Tampa Fishing Outfitters** for their continued support to the club. They gave us items worth over \$500 for the banquet this year.

We will host a fresh water outing on Lake Calm in Odessa on 22 June starting at 0630. We will provide drinks and lunch. This is a beautiful, crystal clear lake with good number of bass and pan-fish. Bring a light rod and some top water bugs, poppers or small gurglers are best.

Kelly will present a talk on her and Wes's trip to Chili fishing for trout and other exotic species in June.

We have one spot open for our trout fishing trip to N. Georgia in November. Please email or contact us at the next meeting.



Fly Casting Tip for May

To begin fly fishing you only need to know only the basic cast and the roll cast. Other casts are useful, but you can do a lot of fishing and catching with those two basic techniques.

I remember when we hosted the late Mel Krieger from California many years ago. He mentioned the roll cast was the first thing he taught any beginner. The roll cast is easy to learn and emphasizes the concept of loading the rod and stopping the rod. The roll cast is essential because we use it to get the line out and also to recover when we lose control of our line and cast.

Let's start at the beginning with stringing your rod. First, pull your leader and line off the reel, double the line and thread it thru all you guides, pulling about 10 feet of line thru the tip top. Next pull more line off the reel and then wiggle the tip of the rod. This will feed the line right thru the rod. Now when you have about 30 feet of line out of the rod in front of you, make a roll cast. Done correctly, you will now have 30 feet of line straight out in front and you are ready to pull off more line and make a basic cast to your target. If your target is fairly close to you, then the roll cast can be used to present the fly. You can also use it when you have an obstruction behind you preventing a normal back-cast. Believe it or not, an efficient roll cast can send the line out to 40 feet or more.

Here are the basic steps for the roll cast:

Hold your hand high, parallel with your ear. Get the fly line behind you and your rod tip should be pointing at about the ten o'clock position behind you. Pause to let the line settle.

Push the rod forward and snap the wrist. This should be one fluid motion looking at the spot you want the fly to land. Be sure to stop the rod abruptly at the 11 o'clock position.

Hold the rod high. Finally, keep the rod tip high for a couple of seconds to let the rod do its job and unload.

I encourage you to learn and practice making an effective roll cast. Let us know at the next meeting if you need help or have questions. You may also find many useful videos on-line. //Walt

FFI Florida Council Expo at Bass Pro in Orlando

Club member Kelly sent us this report: Wes and I went to the FFI Florida Council Expo at Bass Pro in Orlando on April 13. Leigh West was one of the featured fly tyers, along with Bob Clouser and several others. Robert and Ginny Fisher were also there. I would guess about 50 or so people attended. They also held a silent auction and raffle. Here's a summary of the event:

Dave Peterson, FFI Board of Directors Chairman, started the event with a highlight of FFI and resources on their website.

David Olson, White's Tackle (most of us know him from the Big Gun) demonstrated how to deal with everyone's nemesis, the wind. He covered casting into the wind and with the dreaded side wind. His advice included easy changes like shorten the leader, use a heavier rod, and cast a slimmer fly, and harder changes that he demonstrated like make a higher backcast (lower front cast), tighten your loop, use a side arm cast, and cast over opposite shoulder.

John Grasta, Bass Pro Shop, demonstrated two-handed rod casting.

John Cave gave a talk and demonstration on his Performance Fly Casting.

Fly Tyers were on hand providing demonstrations from beautiful spun deer hair to clouser minnows (tied by Bob himself).

Bob Clouser



Leigh West



Robert and Kelly on the right



Sharks, Bones and Curly Tailed Lizards

My wife and I just returned from a two-week adventure on Great Abaco in the Bahamas. The Abacos are the second largest group of islands in the Bahamas and the most northerly positioned. According to Wikipedia, the Abaco Islands were first inhabited by the Lucayans, who called the Abaco Islands Lucayoneque, meaning "the people's distant waters". The first European settlers of the islands were Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution who arrived in 1783. These original Loyalist settlers made a modest living by salvaging wrecks, building small wooden boats, and basic farming.

We traveled by Silver Air, non-stop, from Tampa to Marsh Harbor in the center of Great Abaco. We rented a car from Barefoot Car Rentals and traveled about 45 minutes south to Cherokee Sound, a quaint community that is the most isolated settlement on Abaco. It has neat, narrow concrete streets and pastel painted houses. It is clean and quiet, surrounded by ocean beaches, an awesome creek teeming with marine life, and a blue-hole system with world class deep-sea and bone fishing. It has the longest dock in Abaco (770 feet), known as The Long Dock where you can spot bonefish cruising on the long, white sand flat. We rented Captain's View, which overlooks the flat and the long dock, a perfect location to relax and fish. Cherokee Sound has a small marina, grocery store and hardware store serving about 200 residents. You can buy fresh fish at the dock in the afternoon, from local fisherman. Marsh Harbor also has a huge grocery store where you can buy everything, but expect to pay about twice the U.S. cost. Eating out is also expensive, so we cooked in the cottage and ate and drank well. We only ate out twice, once at Snapper's Pub when we arrived and once on Elbow Cay for a day of sight seeing. I also nabbed one conch and we made fresh conch salad, always a treat in the Bahamas.

Most mornings we slept to 7 AM, got up for tea, a biscuit and breakfast. We would walk out on the long dock about 9 AM to check the weather, tide and fishing prospects, before heading out on the flats. We fished mostly right in front of the house, walking about a mile north to the end of the sound. We saw pretty good numbers of fish every day, but they were spooky and it was very hard to show them the fly. I made the mistake of bringing a too bright (blue) fly line and they often saw that. Twelve foot leaders were required down to 10 pound tippet and a stealthy presentation. We ended up with seven nice bonefish, all on little shrimp flies. My wife, Lou, caught her first bonefish on an ultra light spinning rod, a small sinker and a shrimp fly, quite the feat. Your best chance was to find them tailing over sparse grass with their heads down. Before and after low tide was good and we often fished in less than six inches of water. Lots of happy, big fish tailing, which will get your heart rate up.

Captain's View, hosted by Glenn Russel, was a two bedroom, one bath cottage with a full kitchen. You could drink the water and the AC worked just fine along with the WIFI and TV. We scheduled phone service with Verizon for ten dollars a day if you used it. Our car was a four seater Honda Van, also with good AC. Gas is over six dollars a gallon, but the van got good mileage and not too expensive at \$375 a week. If you want to go, expect to spend about \$3000 for two people for one week including lodging, food, car and air fare. Local guides are available, but we toughed it out and enjoyed the challenge of finding and catching them on our own. Exciting fishing in a superb location and good exercise roaming the flats. In addition to sharks, rays, bonefish, and lizards we also found two long-nosed batfish on the flat. They are very rare, and seem to be in some sort of evolutionary change from fish to a frog or something. Very cool and I am not sure they have been seen on Abaco. //Walt and Lou

Abaco Pictures



Jerry Kells is getting his grandson off to a good start and Jim Adams with a nice redfish on the fly.



Club member Jack Hexter sent us this: On April 24 I went to Brasher Park in Port Richey and helped CCA Florida and the Duke Energy Mariculture Center released 20,000, juvenile (4 to 6 inches), hatchery-reared spotted sea trout along the West Coast, 20,000 in Pasco County The same date, another 20,000 were released in Citrus County.

To date, the partners have released 150,000 spotted sea trout and 280,000 redfish across the state of Florida. Releases continued on April 11 in Panama City, as our team released 50 slot-sized redfish to kick off the 2024 Redfish Film Festival.



Wes and Kelly fished the canals along Highway 27 south of Lake Okeechobee this past weekend. They caught Peacock bass, largemouth bass, Oscars, Mayan cichlids, jaguar cichlid, warmouth, bluegill, and other sunfish. Kelly caught 102 fish on one of the days - all on poppers. Wes went with streamers and did not catch as many. It was a fun weekend.



Photo Gallery

I am trying a new section of our news letter to feature photos from club members of things besides fish. So, dust off your cell phones, SLR camera's or your Kodak Polaroid and send me your exceptional photos each month. Examples below the sunset over Tampa Bay and trees along the Wacasassa River. //Walt



Fishing Report and Forecast

“What a great time to go fishing!”

Get out at daybreak with an easterly wind and calm water to take advantage of some great shallow water tarpon action. An advantage to getting at these fish now is they haven't been beat up by hoards of fishermen and are in the pre-spawn mode making them more likely to grab a well-presented fly. Position your boat close to shore with the sun at your back. Good polarized glasses will allow you to see their flash as they lazily roll on the surface occasionally even inside of swim markers. Eleven weight fly rods with a floating or sink tip line are required. Having your fly at the fish's depth is important for success. A 40-60 pound fluorocarbon shock tippet tied to a 2/0 Keys type or toad pattern in darker colors has been most successful. Minimize boat movement using only a push pole in shallow water. The ideal cast is having the fish come straight to you, then place the offering in her path. If you can't do a saltwater quick cast, get some help to learn. Figure out a pattern where most fish are moving and have them come to you. If not familiar with heavier rods, practice before getting on the water. Use your body to make casting easier and then use your body to fight the fish, not your arms. Keep your rod tip low close to the water and immediately start putting tension on the fish. If anchored, a floating marker buoy with a quick disconnect will allow you to chase hooked fish and then return to your spot. Remember to bow when the giant jumps.

Fly fisherman and casting instructor Pat Damico charts Fly Guy in lower Tampa Bay and can be reached at captpatdamico.com and (727) 504-8649

Fishing Report

Capt Rick Grasset reports: Look for reds, trout and snook in skinny water and snook around dock lights. Deep grass flats are usually a good option for action with trout and seasonal species such as pompano and Spanish mackerel. Also check the coastal gulf for tripletail, false albacore or early arriving tarpon when conditions are good. Our natural resources are under constant pressure from red tides and other algae blooms fueled by residential, industrial and agricultural runoff, toxic spills and intentional releases, freezes, increasing fishing pressure and habitat loss and degradation, please limit your kill, don't kill your limit! You may find big trout in skinny water in many of the same places that you find reds. Blind cast seams where grass meets sand or focus on light colored bottom, in potholes on top of sand bars, where you may be able to sight fish them. I release all big trout (over 19"), since they are usually females that are often filled with roe. These big fish are important to the health of our fishery.

Fin-Addict Guide Service, Inc.; E-mail snookfin@aol.com; (941) 923-7799.



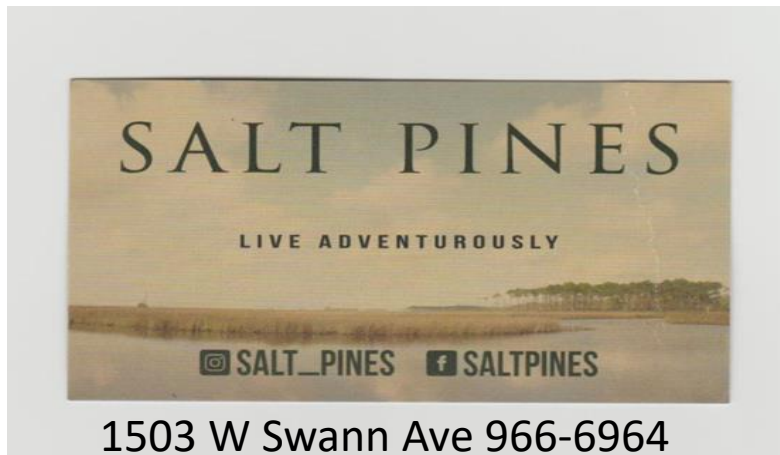
2023/24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 6 Cypress Park Wade Clinic
- Jan 20 Red Fly Tournament
- Feb 17 Trout Creek Outing
- Apr 6 Annual Banquet
- June 22 Lake Calm Freshwater Outing
- Oct Marine Quest, St Pete
- Oct Carl Hanson Outing
- Nov Chattooga Trip for trout
- Nov Casting Clinic, Egan Park
- Nov Big Gun, Picnic Island
- Dec Play Hooky at the Suncoast Youth Center
- Dec 16 Don Coleman Outing, Ft Desoto

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TBFFC is famous for its value and focus on the sharing of information, experience, and craftsmanship with its members. As a TBFFC member you will enjoy many benefits free or at nominal cost.

- Monthly Meetings with informative speakers
- Fishing Trips Sponsored by Members and the Club
- Group Clinics and Workshops
- Fly Tying Lessons
- One-On-One Fly Casting Lessons
- Shirts and Hats with club logo
- 80-page Beginner's Basic Skills Instruction Manual
- Annual Banquet

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Member Application

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Type of Membership: _____

Please Check: One Year _____ Five Year _____

Please list names you wish to include in family membership

Annual Dues: \$40.00 Individual Membership

\$50.00 Family Membership

\$150.00 Corporate Single Membership

(includes one membership and Ad Space)

Five-year dues: \$160.00 Individual Membership

\$200.00 Family Membership

Please make check payable to: Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club C/O Walt Durkin at 3401
W Vasconia St, Tampa, FL 33629